

## FIRST ROUND STARTS WITH TWO MEN TIED

Sellers and Moffett Each Roll 743 Total on Opening Night of Times-Dispatch Elimination Bowling Tournament—Second Squad of 20 Will Try Conclusions 10-Night.

Alley No. 2—Lower, Turner, Wallace, J. S. Barrow, Levering.  
Alley No. 3—Marshall, Lago, Gaust, Hayes, Burnett.  
Alley No. 4—Roe, Capp, Peretti, Stead, Munson.  
Alley No. 5—George Hobelen, Gordon, Oliver, Kinsinger, Richardson.

Moffett and Sellers tied last night for first honors in the first game rolled on the Times-Dispatch elimination bowling tournament, on the Palace Alley, with a total of 743 pins for the five games. As was expected, the first installment of ambitious youngsters broke no records. They were all beginners, but what they lacked in skill they made up in sincerity of purpose. A good gallery watched the sport, despite the weather, which kept some of the more timid at home.

Twenty of the initial twenty scheduled for last night, either from weather conditions or through stage fright, failed to toe the mark when time was called. They have therefore been stricken from the rolls and will not be allowed to compete further in the tournament.

## LEASE FOR BALL PARK SIGNED BY LANDGRAF

Accompanied by J. G. Lazarous, Two Drop Quietly Into Town and Close Negotiations. Work to Begin at Once—United States League Working for Successful Season.

BY GUS MALBERT.  
Ernest C. Landgraf and Jacob G. Lazarous, owners of the Richmond franchise in the United States League of Professional Baseball Clubs, dropped quietly and unostentatiously into town yesterday, walked to the office of J. Thompson Brown & Company, and signed a three-year lease on a plot of ground whereon will be built a baseball plant which will be a credit to the city, and which will compare favorably with any plant in any city in the United States. The plot of ground is just west and north of the Boulevard, and within a half block of the city hall, and is owned by F. V. Snyder. It is 355 feet by 495 feet—quite a nice lot for a ball park.

Owners Landgraf and Lazarous will be busy all of to-day getting their incorporation papers in shape. Landgraf will be the president and manager of the club, while Lazarous will be the secretary and treasurer. Work on the new park will be begun at once. No time will be lost. At the beginning the park will have a seating capacity of 7,000. No more than that, and not one single one less. The policy of the new owners, according to their statement made last night, will be one of absolute frankness and openness with the public. They are going to tell the facts whenever they happen. The salary limit will be the vaulted blue. Not antagonistic in any sense.

First and foremost, Owner Landgraf desired it to be known that he is not coming to Richmond as an antagonist of the Virginia League. "I came to Richmond," he said last night, "because I think Richmond one of the best baseball propositions in the country. I believe, and my associates believe, that we will make money in Richmond; else we wouldn't come. We have been over the ground carefully, have studied the figures, and we feel that if the Eastern League can exist on an average daily attendance of 1,800—the figures are official—that we can support our team and make a fair profit on the average daily attendance we can draw in Richmond."

Even city hall has its park already picked out. While the parks are not equipped, work will be begun at once. I am afraid that the gentlemen who think they control the destiny of baseball will find out that we have more money and brains in our organization than they reckoned with. "The question has been asked, 'Where will we get our ball players?' The same question was asked Dan Johnson when his league was formed, yet two years afterwards he was able to win a world's championship from the National League. There are plenty of ball players. That's the smallest part of it. Richmond will have good men. Negotiations are now under way to secure the services of Harry Steinfield, former third baseman for the Cubs, for Richmond. He is a free agent. So is Vic Miller, by the way. I merely mention these things to show the men who can be secured."

"Coming back to the Virginia League, we will not bother that organization. We are coming to Richmond with something to offer the baseball-loving public. We are going to offer a high

grade of baseball, the best that money can buy. We are going to bid for the patronage of the people who want that class of baseball. No contract jumpers will be played. We are going to protect the contracts of all ball clubs, but we are not going to recognize a reserve clause. We have none in our contracts, but our players will be protected, nevertheless, and protected in such a manner that they can't play ball anywhere in the United States if they attempt to break our contracts."

"Have Received Cordial Support." "We have secured cordial newspaper support wherever we have been. The schedule has been made up in this way, so that the beginners would not get discouraged if some lucky man should hang out a high score."

The game to-night will begin promptly at 8 o'clock, and unless all of those scheduled for to-night appear on time they will be ruled out of the tournament. The official score for last night follows:

Totals	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
J. M. Bailey	129	132	137	119	137	654														
Taylor	163	155	129	142	154	713														
Moffett	112	113	119	100	129	563														
Hempert	127	134	124	125	209	619														
Sellers	154	154	142	129	163	743														
Waldbauer	115	123	145	125	127	635														
Fairbank	193	137	152	189	129	760														
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